

HONORING VERNA MOORE

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Verna Moore, a true inspiration from my hometown of Peoria, Illinois. Verna will be turning one hundred years old on October 16, 2010 and plans to celebrate her birthday by spending time with her family. Throughout her life, Verna has inspired others with her positive attitude, warm personality, love of music, and active lifestyle.

Verna was born on October 16, 1910 to John and Elizabeth Troker, owners of a coal mine in Peoria. She was the youngest of eight children and was always very close with her sisters, brothers, and cousins. Verna has been a resident of Peoria, Illinois her entire life. From a young age, Verna was always filled with love and possessed a giving soul. Under her father's influence, she was raised Catholic and it was from a nun in their church that she first learned to play the piano. She began lessons at a young age and immediately loved the instrument.

Verna graduated the eighth grade from Lucy E. Tyng Middle School and began working in a warehouse. Her life changed when she first met her husband, Carthy Moore, near a pond at Glen Oak Park. They were immediately drawn to each other and married in 1936. Their marriage was built on love and stability, lasting nearly forty years until her husband passed away in 1974. The couple built their house from the ground up and Verna has lived in that same home ever since. Carthy made a living as a foreman at the Keystone Steel and Wire Factory in Martinsville, Illinois. Verna supported Carthy as a homemaker and mother. Her first and only child, William Moore, was born January 16, 1941. William fondly remembers his mother's wonderful baking and cooking, and the great care she always gave to him when he was sick as a child.

As she grew older, Verna took interest in a Mennonite church down the road from her Peoria home. She soon began attending the church and later played piano during the services. She continued to play hymns for the church services up until just a few years ago. To this day she continues to stay active. Today she not only is a mother, but a grandmother, a great grandmother, and a great-great grandmother. Her love has affected the entire community. Through her vibrant spirit she continues to inspire others, especially at the age of 100 years old.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I wish to wholeheartedly congratulate Verna Moore on reaching the immense milestone of 100 years of age. I hope that every American can learn the important lesson of staying healthy and fit in both mind and body while maintaining a loving heart such as Verna's.

CONDOLENCES TO FAMILIES OF GRADUATES OF BUCHANAN HIGH SCHOOL

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and my colleagues Congressmen JIM COSTA and GEORGE RADANOVICH, to extend our deepest condolences to the families of Buchanan High School graduates of Clovis, California who were lost in battle.

Words are insufficient to convey the depth of pain and loss felt by the families, friends, and colleagues of these brave men. They displayed enormous courage and a true commitment to protecting our Nation. Their tragic loss will continue to be felt by many for years to come.

Marine Corporal Jeremiah A. Baro, 21, of Fresno, California was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, in Camp Pendleton, California. He died on November 4th, 2004, of injuries sustained due to enemy action in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Jeremiah was a 2001 graduate of Buchanan High School.

Marine Lance Corporal Jared P. Hubbard, 22, of Clovis, California was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, in Camp Pendleton, California. He died on November 4th, 2004, of injuries sustained due to enemy action in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Jared was a 2001 graduate of Buchanan High School.

Marine Lance Corporal Anthony E. Butterfield, 19, of Clovis, California died on July 29th 2006 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, in Twentynine Palms, California. Tony was a 2005 graduate of Buchanan High School.

Army Private First Class Rowan D. Walter, 25, of Winnetka, California was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, in Fort Carson, Colorado. He died on February 23rd, 2007, of injuries suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee during combat operations in Ramadi, Iraq. Rowan was a 1999 graduate of Buchanan High School.

Army Corporal Nathan C. Hubbard, 21, of Clovis, California was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, at the Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. He died on August 22nd, 2007 when a Black Hawk helicopter crashed in Northern Iraq. Nathan was a 2004 graduate of Buchanan High School.

Senior Airman Nicholas D. Eischen, 24, of Sanger, California was assigned to the 60th Medical Operations Squadron at Travis Air Force Base in California. He died on Christmas Eve 2007 while serving as an emergency room medic at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. Nathan was a 2001 graduate of Buchanan High School and played on the varsity football team.

Sergeant Brian F. Piercy, 26, of Clovis, California was assigned to the U.S. Army's Alpha Company, 2-508 Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He was killed on July 19th, 2010, while serving in combat in Afghanistan. Brian was a 2001 graduate from Buchanan High School, and the son of Alta Sierra math teacher Carol Piercy.

Today we honor each of these brave young men for their service to our country and extend our condolences to their families, friends, and colleagues.

HONORING CELIA KUPERSMITH

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Celia Kupersmith, who departs from her position as General Manager of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway, and Transportation District on September 1, 2010. Over the past 11 years, Ms. Kupersmith has overseen improvements in the infrastructure and services on which millions of people in the San Francisco Bay Area depend. Her leadership has been a source of strength during an especially active period for the Bridge District.

With over 800 employees running the Golden Gate Bridge, five transbay ferries, and a network of nearly 200 buses, the Bridge District manages the most critical linkages between San Francisco and the North Bay. It provides residents with over 50 million trips annually, and it maintains services for the six million tourists who come each year to visit the Bridge itself.

In 1999, after serving for several years as Executive Directive of the Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County, Nevada, Ms. Kupersmith took on the challenge of leading this important agency at the outset of a number of significant technological and administrative changes.

During her period of service, Ms. Kupersmith has worked tirelessly to ensure that the people of the Bay Area can rely on the physical safety of the Golden Gate Bridge. She was called on to respond to the increased security demands placed on the Bridge District after September 11, 2001, and she has led the reform of Bridge security that followed. I am also particularly proud to have worked with her through several Congresses to secure federal funding for the ongoing seismic retrofitting of the Bridge.

Under Ms. Kupersmith's leadership, the past decade has seen the Bridge District make substantial improvements in its speed and interconnectedness within the Bay Area transportation network. This includes the implementation of electronic toll collection on the Golden Gate Bridge and the introduction of region-wide public transit cards—the TransLink and Clipper cards—on our buses and ferries. The Bridge District has also worked to enhance the speed of ferry service, which now offers a connection between Central Marin and downtown San Francisco in only 30 minutes.

Ms. Kupersmith will be leaving the Bridge District for a Deputy CEO position at Sound